

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A captioning system for providing captions for a presentation to a user, the captioning system comprising:

a caption store operable to store one or more sets of captions each set being associated with one or more presentations and each set comprising a plurality of captions for playout at different timings during the associated presentation; and

a portable user device having:

i) a first receiver memory-operable to receive, from said caption store, and store at least one set of captions for storage in the user device or to receive a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to an associated a user associated with the user device, from said caption store;

ii) a second receiver operable to receive a wireless signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in synchronisation information defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption in the received set of captions is to be output to the user associated with the user device;

iii) a caption output circuit operable to output to the associated user, the captions in the received set of captions each received caption to the user associated with the user device; and

iv) a timing controller operable to process responsive to said received synchronisation information wireless signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and operable to control said caption output circuit so that said captions are each caption is output to said user at the determined timing-timings defined by said synchronisation information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1-2, wherein said captions include text and wherein said caption output circuit is operable to output said captions to a display device associated with the user device for display to the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said captions include formatting information for controlling the format of the text displayed on said display.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein each caption includes duration information defining the duration that the caption should be displayed to the user.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said caption includes timing information defining the time at which the caption should be displayed to the user during the presentation.

8. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 1 wherein said captions include audio data and wherein said caption output circuit is operable to output said audio data to an electro-acoustic device for converting the audio data into corresponding acoustic signals.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said presentation includes audio.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said presentation includes video.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store is formed in a memory card which is insertable into said user device and wherein said user device includes a reader for reading captions from said memory card when inserted therein.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store is provided in a computer system and wherein said user device includes means-a communication module for communicating with said computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13-14, wherein said computer system is remote from said user device ~~and wherein said user device has an associated communication module for communicating with said remote computer system.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13-14, wherein said user device includes a housing and wherein said communication module is provided within said housing.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13-14, wherein said communication module is operable to communicate with said remote computer system using a wireless communication link.

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 16, wherein said user device comprises a mobile telephone or a personal digital assistant.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 42-4, wherein said synchronization synchronisation information defines expected time points for one or more predetermined portions of the presentation.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 19, wherein said user device comprises a monitoring circuit operable to monitor said presentation to identify the actual time points of said one or more predetermined portions and wherein said timing controller is responsive to the difference between the actual timings and the expected timings to control the outputting of the captions by said caption output circuit.

21. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 20, wherein said predetermined portions of said presentation correspond to portions of audio of the presentation and wherein said monitoring circuit includes a microphone for sensing the audio of the presentation and a comparator for comparing the received audio with the expected portions of the audio defined by said synchronization ~~synchro~~isation information.

22. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 20, wherein said user device has an acquisition mode of operation in which an output of said monitoring circuit is compared with said predetermined points defined by said synchronization ~~synchro~~isation information to identify a current position within said presentation and a tracking mode of operation in which the output of said monitoring circuit is compared with a current predetermined portion defined by said synchronization ~~synchro~~isation information.

23. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 22, wherein during said tracking mode of operation, said monitoring circuit is operable to monitor said presentation during a predetermined time window around the expected time point defined by said synchronization ~~synchro~~isation information for the current predetermined portion.

24. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 42-1, wherein said receiver in said user device is operable to receive said synchronization ~~synchro~~isation information from said caption store.

25. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 42-1, wherein said synchronization ~~synchro~~nisation information is embedded within said presentation and wherein said user device includes a monitoring circuit operable to monitor the presentation and to extract said synchronization ~~synchro~~nisation information therefrom.

26. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein said synchronization ~~synchro~~nisation information is embedded within the audio of said presentation.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein said synchronization ~~synchro~~nisation information comprises synchronization ~~synchro~~nisation codes occurring at different timings during the presentation.

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 27, wherein each synchronization ~~synchro~~nisation code is unique to uniquely define the position in the presentation.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store includes a plurality of sets of captions for a plurality of different presentations.

30. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, wherein said user device is operable to capture a portion of said presentation and is operable to transmit the captured portion to said caption store and wherein said caption store is operable to use said captured portion of the presentation to identify the presentation being made and to transmit the associated set of captions for the identified presentation to said user device.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein said user device is operable to process the captured portion of the presentation to extract data characteristic of the captured portion and is operable to transmit said characteristic data to said caption store, and wherein said caption store is operable to use said characteristic data to identify the presentation

being made and to transmit the associated set of captions for the identified presentation to the user device.

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said presentation is given at a venue, wherein said venue is operable to provide an activation code, wherein said user device is operable to receive said activation code and further comprises an inhibitor for inhibiting the operation of said caption output circuit unless said user device has received said activation code.

33. (Currently Amended) A portable user device for use in a captioning system, the portable user device comprising:

i) a first receiver ~~memory~~ operable to receive, from a caption and store, at least one set of captions for storage in the user device or to receive a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to a ~~an associated user associated with the user device, from said caption store;~~

ii) a second receiver operable to receive a wireless signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in ~~synchronisation information~~ defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption ~~in the received set of captions~~ is to be output to the user associated with the user device;

iii) a caption output circuit operable to output each received caption to the ~~associated user associated with the user device, the captions in the received set of captions;~~ and

iv) a timing controller operable to process ~~responsive to~~ said received wireless signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output ~~synchronisation information~~ and operable to control said caption output circuit so that each caption is said captions are output to said user at the determined timing ~~timings defined by said synchronisation information.~~

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ ~~The~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions for causing a general purpose computing device to operate as the portable user device of claim 33-4.

37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A captioning system for providing captions for a presentation to a user, the captioning system comprising:

means for storing one or more sets of captions each set being associated with one or more presentations and each set comprising a plurality of captions for play out at different timings during the associated presentation; and

a portable user device having:

i) means for receiving at least one set of captions for storage in the user device or for receiving a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to a user associated with the user device captions from said captions store;

ii) means for receiving a wireless signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in synchronisation information defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the user device;

iii) means for outputting each received caption the captions to a the user associated with the user device; and

iv) means ~~responsive to the synchronisation information for processing said received wireless signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and for controlling said output means; so that each caption is said captions are~~ output to said user at the determined timing timings determined by said synchronisation information.

41. (Canceled)

42. (New) A system according to claim 1, operable to receive synchronization information defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the user device and wherein said timing controller is operable to use the received wireless signal and the received synchronization information in determining the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output to the user.

43. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first receiver is operable to receive said set of captions or said sequence of captions via a telephone network.

44. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first receiver is operable to receive said set of captions or said sequence of captions over a wired communications link in advance of the presentation.

45. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein said user device is operable to use said first receiver to download a next caption from said caption store when it detects a synchronization code in the wireless signal received from said second receiver.

46. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein said wireless signal is an acoustic signal and wherein said second receiver comprises a microphone for receiving the acoustic signal.

47. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein said wireless signal is an electromagnetic signal and wherein said second receiver is an electromagnetic receiver.

48. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store is provided by a remote server, wherein said user device comprises a mobile telephone and wherein the user device allows said user to interact with the remote server using the mobile telephone.

49. (New) A device according to claim 33, wherein said captions include text for display and wherein said captions include formatting information for controlling the format of the displayed text.

50. (New) A device according to claim 49, wherein each caption includes duration information defining the duration that the caption should be displayed on said display.

51. (New) A device according to claim 49, wherein said caption includes timing information defining the time at which the caption should be displayed to the user during the presentation.

52. (New) A device according to claim 33, wherein said caption store is provided in a remote computer system, wherein said user device includes a communication module for communicating with said computer system and wherein said first receiver forms part of said communicating means.

53. (New) A device according to claim 52, wherein said communication module is operable to communicate with said remote computer system using a wireless communication link.

54. (New) A device according to claim 33, wherein said user device comprises a mobile telephone or a personal digital assistant.

55. (New) A device according to claim 33, operable to receive synchronization information defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the user device and wherein said timing controller is operable to use the received synchronization information in determining the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output to the user.

56. (New) A device according to claim 55, wherein said synchronization information defines expected time points for one or more predetermined portions of the presentation.

57. (New) A device according to claim 56, comprising a monitoring circuit operable to monitor said presentation to identify the actual time points of said one or more predetermined portions, wherein said second receiver forms part of said monitoring circuit and wherein said timing controller is responsive to the difference between the actual timings and the expected timings to control the outputting of the captions by said caption output circuit.

58. (New) A device according to claim 57, wherein said predetermined portions of said presentation correspond to portions of audio of the presentation, wherein said second receiver includes a microphone for sensing the audio of the presentation and wherein said monitoring circuit comprises a comparator for comparing the received audio with the expected portions of the audio defined by said synchronization information.

59. (New) A device according to claim 57, having an acquisition mode of operation in which an output of said monitoring circuit is compared with said predetermined points defined by said synchronization information to identify a current position within said presentation and a tracking mode of operation in which the output of said monitoring circuit is compared with a current predetermined portion defined by said synchronization information.

60. (New) A device according to claim 59, wherein during said tracking mode of operation, said monitoring circuit is operable to monitor said presentation during a predetermined time window around the expected time point defined by said synchronization information for the current predetermined portion.

61. (New) A device according to claim 55, wherein said synchronization information is embedded within said presentation and comprising a monitoring circuit operable to monitor the

presentation and to extract said synchronization information therefrom and wherein said second receiver forms part of said monitoring circuit.

62. (New) A device according to claim 55, wherein said synchronization information comprises synchronization codes occurring at different timings during the presentation.

63. (New) A device according to claim 62, wherein each synchronization code is unique to uniquely define the position in the presentation.

64. (New) A device according to claim 33, wherein said caption store includes a plurality of sets of captions for a plurality of different presentations and wherein the user device is operable to capture a portion of said presentation and is operable to transmit the captured portion to said caption store for use by the caption store to identify the presentation being made.

65. (New) A device according to claim 64, operable to process the captured portion of the presentation to extract data characteristic of the captured portion and operable to transmit said characteristic data to said caption store for use by the caption store to identify the presentation.

66. (New) A method of providing captions for presentation to a user, the method comprising:

storing, at a caption store, one or more sets of captions each being associated with one or more presentations and each comprising a plurality of captions for playout at different timings during the associated presentation; and

at a portable user device:

using a first receiver to receive, from said caption store, at least one set of captions for storage in the user device or to receive a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to an associated user;

using a second receiver to receive a wireless signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user;

outputting the captions to the associated user; and

processing the received wireless signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and controlling the outputting step so that each caption is output to the user at the determined timing.